

Private Stewardship Grants

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460l-4 through 11), including administrative expenses, and for private conservation efforts to be carried out on private lands, [7,500,000] *\$10,000,000*, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to remain available until expended; *Provided*, That the amount provided herein is for a Stewardship Grants Program established by the Secretary to provide grants and other assistance to individuals and groups engaged in private conservation efforts that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species. (*Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2004.*)

Authorizing Statutes

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Prohibits the import, export, or taking of fish and wildlife and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species; provides for adding species to and removing them from the list of threatened and endangered species, and for preparing and implementing plans for their recovery; provides for interagency cooperation to avoid take of listed species and for issuing permits for otherwise prohibited activities; provides for cooperation with States, including authorization of financial assistance; and implements the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). Authorization of Appropriations: Expired September 30, 1992

Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 742(a)-754). Establishes a comprehensive national fish and wildlife policy and authorizes the Secretary to take steps required for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fisheries resources and wildlife resources through research, acquisition of refuge lands, development of existing facilities, and other means.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 661-666(e)). The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to provide assistance to, and cooperate with, Federal, State, and public or private agencies and organizations in the development, protection, rearing, and stocking of all species of wildlife, resources thereof, and their habitat, in controlling losses of the same from disease or other causes, in minimizing damages from overabundant species, in providing public shooting and fishing areas, including easements across public lands for access thereto.

Private Stewardship Grants		2003 ¹ Actual	2004 Estimate	Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2005 Budget Request	Change from 2004 (+/-)
Private Stewardship Grants	\$(000) FTE	9,438 3	7,408 4	-	+2,592	10,000 4	+2,592 0
Administration CAM	\$(000)	497 [0]	[370] [TBD]*	-	-	- [TBD]*	-
Private Stewardship Grants	\$(000) FTE	9,935 3	7,408 4	-	+2,592 0	10,000 4	+2,592 0

* The Service is reviewing the Cost Allocation Methodology and will provide a FY 2005 budget proposal by April 15, 2004.

¹ Congress rescinded \$10 million in unobligated balances brought forward in 2003 reducing the total new appropriation to \$-65,000.

Program Overview

Private Stewardship Grants fund conservation actions for imperiled species on private lands. Grants are available to individuals and groups to implement private land conservation actions to benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species. The participation of private landowners is essential for successful imperiled species conservation efforts because most listed species depend on habitat found on private lands. This grant assistance is crucial to garnering private landowner participation.

The Department has recently finalized its Strategic Plan, and the Service is developing mission goals and associated long-term goals consistent with the Strategic Plan. The Private Stewardship Grants Program contributes directly to the Department's strategic goals to sustain biological communities by focusing on the conservation of the most imperiled components of these communities, and to improve the health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources, under the Resource Protection mission component. The Service's associated proposed mission goal is "Conservation Leadership for Fish, Wildlife and their Habitats." The Department's relevant end outcome measures are the percent of species listed a decade or more that are in stable or improving condition and the number of candidate and at-risk species not listed due to conservation efforts.

The Endangered Species Program has developed draft long-term and annual performance goals to evaluate our success in

Use of Cost and Performance Information

- Private Stewardship grants are awarded through competition. The established eligibility and ranking criteria for the program, and the regional competitions conducted to select grants, allow the Service to focus the program on its overall goals and ensure that program performance goals are achieved.
- Analysis of the results from the first year of the program (FY 2003) will allow the Service to further refine program elements to better meet our performance goals as described in the program overview. In addition to assessing the program's success in meeting our goals, this evaluation will focus on identifying problems and possible improvements in implementation of the program. We expect this analysis to be completed during FY 2004.
- Awarded 113 projects in 43 states in FY 2003

meeting these goals. The proposed long-term performance goals for the Private Stewardship Grants Program are (1) to increase the number of partnerships or cooperative efforts that contribute to stabilizing, improving, and recovering species, and (2) to increase the acreage of lands providing conservation benefits to listed, candidate, and at-risk species through voluntary partnership agreements. The Private Stewardship Grants Program's annual performance goals are to increase by 4 percent the number of voluntary partnerships or cooperative agreements that contribute to



stabilizing, improving, and recovering species, and to increase by 2 percent the acreage of lands providing conservation benefits. For the Private Stewardship Program, progress towards these goals will be measured by the number of private stewardship grants awarded that contribute to stabilizing, improving, and recovering species, and by the number of acres covered by these grants.

2003 Program Performance Accomplishments

The Service issued a request for proposals on October 1, 2002, that included eligibility criteria and ranking factors. An outreach strategy was implemented to encourage individuals and groups engaged in local, private, and voluntary conservation efforts to apply for these grants. The Endangered Species and Partners for Fish and Wildlife Programs worked collectively to inform individuals and groups about the availability of these grants, and provided technical assistance to the individuals and groups who received the grant awards. Representatives from State governments, other Federal agencies, conservation organizations, agriculture and development interests, and the science community were identified to serve as members of the diverse panels that made project funding recommendations to the Service. Project selections were made in May 2003.

In FY 2003, the Service made awards to 113 projects in 43 states totaling more than \$9.4 million. Typical projects included managing nonnative, competing species; implementing measures to minimize risk from disease; restoring streams that support imperiled species; and planting native vegetation to restore a rare plant community. Several projects funded in FY 2003 through the program are listed below.

Select 2003 Program Awards

Willamette Valley (Application by The Nature Conservancy of Oregon) - Oregon - (\$289,760) - To restore riparian, prairie, and oak woodland habitat and habitat conditions for total of 21 separate populations of 7 federally listed species including Fender's blue butterfly, Oregon chub, Willamette Valley daisy, Bradshaw's lomatium, 1 candidate species - streaked horned lark, and 5 Federal species of concern including northwestern pond turtle, yellow-breasted chat, and white-tip aster. The project will provide additional benefits for 8 at-risk species including western meadowlark (the State bird), and western gray squirrel. The project will also provide a foundation of restored habitat and restoration capacity on which to base coordinated species recovery efforts on targeted private lands throughout the Willamette Valley.

Texas Prairie Rivers Region, Inc. (Application by Private Landowner) - Texas - (\$91,875) - To assist landowners who wish to voluntarily restore approximately 20,786 acres of habitat for High Plains species-at-risk and other grassland species within the Texas Prairie Rivers Region in the northeastern Texas panhandle. This will be accomplished by developing grazing systems (with fencing, cross-fencing and water developments); invasive tree and brush control; native grass and forb restoration and restoration of extirpated black-tailed prairie dog colonies and species associated with prairie dogs, including the burrowing owl. Additional species targeted include the Arkansas River shiner, Texas horned lizard and the lesser prairie chicken.

Endangered Gray and Indiana Bat Riparian and Hibernation Habitat Protection (Application by Private Landowner) - Missouri - (\$21,374) - To increase the populations of gray and Indiana bats by protecting, restoring and managing riparian corridors and upland forests, and preserving suitable foraging/roosting/hibernation habitats for these species. Management strategies include fencing out cattle, decreasing human disturbance, and restoration of plant biodiversity by eliminating non-native plant species, which will increase plant density and insect species populations needed by the endangered bats.

A Plan to Enhance and Maintain Longleaf Pine Habitat in Mobile County (Application by Mobile Area Water and Sewer System) - Alabama - (\$106,046) - To implement management actions to preserve, enhance and sustain gopher tortoise populations and other species, including restoration of a longleaf pine ecosystem. Management actions include prescribed burning on 1,000 acres; using herbicides to control exotics on 300 acres; placement of 4.5 miles of perimeter fencing; and constructing two creek crossings for management purposes. The identified management actions would be performed on 1,000 acres, to the benefit of 8 or more listed species.

Muddy Creek "Friends of the Mussels" Streambank Restoration and Riparian Protection, Pennsylvania (Application by Western Pennsylvania Conservancy) - Pennsylvania - (\$75,000) - To improve water quality and habitat for federally endangered freshwater mussels such as the clubshell mussel, and state listed freshwater mussels and fish species that include the creek heelsplitter mussel and the Ohio lamprey. The project will protect state listed riparian and wetland plant species through revegetation of riparian areas with native species; restoration of eroded streambanks using vegetative stabilization techniques; fencing of livestock from streams, riparian, and wetland areas; and wetland restoration.

Comanche Pool Prairie Resource Foundation/High Plains Partnership (Application by Comanche Pool Prairie Resource Foundation) - Kansas - (\$100,000) - This project will continue a rancher-led initiative that has a proven record of success in enhancing mixed-grass and prairie stream habitat for species at risk, such as the candidate black-tailed prairie dog and lesser prairie chicken and the federally listed Arkansas River shiner and Arkansas darter. Participating ranchers will draw from a variety of resource management tools including altered grazing management, prescribed burning, cutting of invasive woody species and stream restoration to improve habitat for targeted prairie species at risk. By actively encouraging ranchers to assist other ranchers in making improvements, good conservation practices for species at risk will continue to expand over a large multi-county area.

Afognak Island Timber Road/Culvert Removal (Application by Wildlife Forever) - Alaska - (\$66,421) - This project will help Native Corporations remove roads and culverts and restore riparian habitat in the Waterfall area of Afognak Island. The Waterfall area is important high quality habitat for the Afognak Island population of at-risk Kodiak Brown Bears. Habitat protection and restoration activities conducted under this grant will minimize the area's vulnerability to future human disturbance and restore the natural integrity to this area.

2004 Planned Program Performance

The Service expects to publish a request for proposals in January 2004, and award grants by May 2004. With the funds available for grants in FY 2004, the Service expects to be able to award approximately 30 fewer grants in FY 2004 than in FY 2003. Although we expect the Program's contribution will still be significant, the reduction in available funding in the Private Stewardship Grants Program will likely reduce the program's contribution to the proposed long-term goal of increasing the number of partnerships or cooperative agreements that contribute to stabilizing, improving, and recovering species, and to the number of acres providing conservation benefits through voluntary partnerships.

Justification of 2005 Program Changes

Activity		2005 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
Private Stewardship Grants	\$(000) FTE	10,000 4	+2,592 0

The FY 2005 budget request for the Private Stewardship Grants program is \$10,000,000 and 4 FTE, a net program increase of \$2,592,000 and 0 FTE from the 2004 enacted level. Additional resources for the Private Stewardship Grants program will increase the Service's ability to provide funds to individuals and groups to implement private land conservation actions to benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species. Because most listed species depend on habitat found on private lands, the participation of private landowners is essential for successful imperiled species conservation efforts.

Private Stewardship Grants (+\$2,592,000)

Additional resources for the Private Stewardship Grants program will support greater involvement of individuals and groups in imperilled species conservation efforts. This \$2,592,000 increase is a significant increase to a program aimed at assisting individuals with conservation actions on private lands; it will support many priority on-the-ground projects and studies, and will highlight the value of working with individuals in our partnerships for imperilled species conservation and recovery. In contrast to other grant programs, which usually support projects of third parties, groups and individuals themselves use the funds provided through the Private Stewardship Grants program for on-the-ground projects to conserve species on their property. Private stewardship grants are an important new source of funds for individuals and groups, many of whom have limited funding for imperilled species work, to undertake high priority needs and respond to unique opportunities. To be eligible for private stewardship grant funds, a minimum of 10 percent of the cost of the project must be shared by a non-federal entity. The requested funds are leveraged through matching dollars to maximize the conservation benefit to imperilled species. This increase will support the Service in meeting the identified long-term goal of habitat conservation at both the species and landscape level, and the long-term goal of supporting fish, wildlife and plant populations.

With the proposed increase in FY 2005, the Private Stewardship Grants program is expected to meet the Service's draft annual performance goals of increasing by 2 percent above the baseline the acreage of lands in the Private Stewardship Grants program providing conservation benefits to listed, candidate, and at-risk species, and increasing by 4 percent above the baseline the number of partnerships and cooperative efforts in the Private Stewardship Grants program that contribute to stabilizing, improving, and recovering species. Baseline numbers for these measures will be developed by September 30, 2004. The Private Stewardship Program contributes to the Endangered

Species Program's draft long-term goals of, by 2008, increasing by 10 percent the acreage of lands providing conservation benefits to listed, candidate, and at-risk species, and increasing by 20 percent the number of partnerships and cooperative efforts that contribute to stabilizing, improving, and recovering species.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
PRIVATE STEWARDSHIP GRANTS PROGRAM

Program and Financing (in thousands of dollars)

Identification code 14-5495-0	2003 Actual	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate
Obligations by program activity:			
00.01 Private Stewardship Grants Program	7,079	7,054	9,700
00.02 Administration	370	400	400
10.00 Total new obligations	7,449	7,454	10,100

Budgetary resources available for obligation:			
21.40 Unobligated balance available, start of year	10,000	2,551	2,505
22.00 New budget authority, gross	0	7,408	10,000
22.10 Resources available from recoveries of prior year obligations	0	0	0
23.90 Total budgetary resources available for obligation	10,000	9,959	12,505
23.95 New obligations (-)	-7,449	-7,454	-10,100
24.40 Unobligated balance available, end of year	2,551	2,505	2,405

New budget authority (gross) detail:			
Discretionary:			
40.20 Appropriation (special fund, LWCF) [14-5005-0-N-0507]	10,000	7,408	10,000
40.37 Appropriation temporarily reduced [14-5005-0-N-0520]	-10,000	0	0
43.00 Appropriation (total discretionary)	0	7,408	10,000

Change in obligated balances:			
<i>Unpaid obligations, start of year:</i>			
72.40 Obligated balance, start of year	0	6,904	10,358
73.10 New obligations	7,449	7,454	10,100
73.20 Total outlays, gross (-)	-545	-4,000	-7,000
<i>Unpaid obligations, end of year:</i>			
74.40 Obligated balance, end of year	6,904	10,358	13,458

Outlays, (gross) detail:			
86.90 Outlays from new current authority	0	2,000	3,000
86.93 Outlays from current balances	545	2,000	4,000
87.00 Total, outlays (gross)	545	4,000	7,000

Net budget authority and outlays:			
89.00 Budget authority	10,000	7,408	10,000
90.00 Outlays	545	4,000	7,000

Object classification (in thousands of dollars)

Identification code 14-5495-0	2003 Actual	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate
Direct obligations:			
Personnel compensation:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	244	212	212
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	4	3	3
11.5 Other personnel compensation	8	7	6
11.9 Total personnel compensation	256	222	221
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	75	83	76
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	5	9	9
23.3 Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	0	8	10
24.0 Printing	0	2	2
25.2 Other services	176	55	45
25.3 Purchases of good and services from government accts	1	35	38
26.0 Supplies and materials	6	6	8
31.0 Equipment	25	34	35
41.0 Grants, susidies, and contributions	6,904	7,000	9,656
99.0 Subtotal, direct obligations	7,448	7,454	10,100

Personnel Summary

Identification code 14-5495-0	2003 Actual	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate
Total compensable workyears:			
1001 Full-time equivalent employment	3	4	4
Average salary per FTE	85,333	55,500	55,250